

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
Serial Number: 10/707,619
Filing Date: December 24, 2003
Title: SNOW REMOVAL VEHICLES WITH COLORED EL LIGHTING

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A snowplow, comprising:

a cab;
a trailer;
a scraper; and

EL lighting wherein the EL lighting is attached to the cab further wherein the EL portion is a first color in a non-illuminated condition, and a second color in an illuminated condition, and wherein the tinting layer is tinted so that when the EL portion is non-illuminated the tinting causes the safety sign to produce a first color different than the color of the EL portion in the non-illuminated condition, and so that when the EL portion is illuminated the tinting causes the safety sign to produce a second color different than the first color and different than the color of the EL portion in the illuminated condition.

2. (Original) The snowplow of claim 1 wherein the EL lighting is attached to one or more doors on the cab.

3. (Original) The snowplow of claim 1 wherein the EL lighting is attached to a front portion of the cab.

4. (Original) The snowplow of claim 1 wherein the EL lighting is attached to an upper portion of the cab.

5. (Original) The snowplow of claim 1, further comprising one or more mudflaps attached to one or more of the cab and trailer.

6. (Original) The snowplow of claim 5 wherein the EL lighting is on one or more mudflaps.

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7. (Original) The snowplow of claim 1 wherein the EL lighting emits a blinking display.
8. (Original) The snowplow of claim 1 wherein the EL lighting includes indicia.
9. (Original) The snowplow of claim 8 wherein the indicia imparts a message conveying safety or caution.
10. (Original) The snowplow of claim 1 wherein the EL lighting includes more than one color.
11. (Original) The snowplow of claim 10 wherein the EL lighting color is orange or yellow.
12. (Currently Amended) A method for improving driver safety in a snowplow, comprising:
obtaining a snowplow that includes safety indicia illuminated by one or more EL lighting surfaces further wherein the EL portion is a first color in a non-illuminated condition, and a second color in an illuminated condition, and wherein the tinting layer is tinted so that when the EL portion is non-illuminated the tinting causes the safety sign to produce a first color different than the color of the EL portion in the non-illuminated condition, and so that when the EL portion is illuminated the tinting causes the safety sign to produce a second color different than the first color and different than the color of the EL portion in the illuminated condition;
and
driving the snowplow under conditions that include darkness, storms, fog, and other conditions of adverse visibility.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 12 wherein the safety indicia illuminated by one or more EL lighting surfaces includes a surface on a mud flap attached to the snowplow.

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14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 12 wherein the safety indicia illuminated by one or more EL lighting surfaces includes a surface on a cab of the snowplow.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 12 wherein the safety indicia illuminated by one or more EL lighting surfaces includes a surface on the rear of the snowplow.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 12 wherein the safety indicia illuminated by one or more EL lighting surfaces includes a surface on one or more ~~rear view~~ rearview mirrors of the snowplow.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 12 wherein the safety indicia illuminated by one or more EL lighting surfaces includes a surface on the top of the snowplow.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 12 wherein the snowplow is driven adjacent to another snowplow that also includes the safety indicia illuminated by one or more EL lighting surfaces.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[7]] 18 wherein the snowplows are driven in a snowstorm.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 12 wherein one or more of the EL lighting surfaces blink.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[7]] 18 wherein one or more of the EL lighting surfaces of one or more of the snowplows blinks.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for making a snowplow, comprising:
obtaining a snowplow and attaching to the snowplow one or more El lighting devices, the EL lighting devices effective for signaling a safety signal to other drivers on a highway further wherein the EL portion is a first color in a non-illuminated condition, and a second color in an

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illuminated condition, and wherein the tinting layer is tinted so that when the EL portion is non-illuminated the tinting causes the safety sign to produce a first color different than the color of the EL portion in the non-illuminated condition, and so that when the EL portion is illuminated the tinting causes the safety sign to produce a second color different than the first color and different than the color of the EL portion in the illuminated condition.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[20]] 22 wherein the safety signal is a color.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[20]] 22, wherein the EL lighting device is attached to the front of the snowplow.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[20]] 22, wherein the EL lighting device is attached to the rear of the snowplow.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[20]] 22 wherein at least one EL lighting device is attached to at least one mud guard attached to the snowplow.

27. (New) A method comprising:

clearing snow from a surface using at least two snow plows plowing simultaneously, wherein each snow plow has a plow blade;

both of the at least two snow plows driving in substantially the same direction wherein a first one of the at least two snow plows is driving behind of a second one of the at least two snow plows;

the first snow plow having its plow blade oriented to plow snow toward a first lateral side of the surface being plowed;

the second snow plow also having its plow blade oriented to plow snow to the first lateral side of the surface being plowed;

the first snow plow being driven in a laterally offset alignment with the second snow plow such that the plow blade of the first snow plow catches snow plowed toward the first lateral

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side by the second snow plow and further plows at least the caught snow toward the first lateral side;

at least the second snow plow having at least one EL illuminated surface mounted thereon so as to be visible to a driver of the first snow plow; and

the driver of the first snow plow using the EL illuminated surface mounted on the second snow plow to maintain the laterally offset alignment.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the EL illuminated surface is positioned on a mud flap attached to the snowplow.

29. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the EL illuminated surface is positioned on a cab of the snowplow.

30. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the EL illuminated surface is positioned on the rear of the snowplow.

31. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the EL illuminated surface is positioned on one or more rear view mirrors of the snowplow.

32. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the EL illuminated surface is positioned on the top of the snowplow.

33. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the snowplows are driven in a snowstorm.

34. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein one or more of the EL illuminated surfaces blink.